

and not only is it of value to the pregnant woman, but its study by recently qualified medical men would be of great advantage in the conduct of the minor maladies and incidents of childbirth, which unfortunately do not receive the attention they deserve in most medical schools.

—W. S. C.

AN INTRODUCTION TO PRACTICAL BACTERIOLOGY. By T. J. Mackie, M.D., D.P.H., and J. E. McCartney, M.D., D.Sc. 1934. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone. pp. 504. Price 12s. 6d.

THE first edition of this book appeared in 1925. That the present volume is the fourth edition may be taken as a gauge of its usefulness and of the determination of its authors to keep it up to date. Unlike many other scientific volumes, it can with truth be described as a handbook. The matter contained in it is divided into three parts.

Part I is introductory. It deals with the general biology of bacteria and with immunity in relation to practical bacteriology. Here the essential information is given briefly, clearly, and concisely. It affords the student a bird's-eye view of the subject, making it easier for him presently to tackle immunology in fuller detail.

Part II consists of the methods of bacteriological technique, and its contents are of value both to the laboratory worker and the advanced student. A surprising amount of information is available which would otherwise have to be obtained from various and probably obscure sources. The recipes for media-making are comprehensive and varied, and the methods well arranged. They include, among others, Wilson and Blair's medium for the isolation of the bacillus typhosus and McLeod's medium for the isolation of diphtheria. The staining methods given are also up to date, as is shown by the presence of Castaneda's stain for rickettsia and for inclusion bodies in virus infections.

Part III deals systematically with the pathogenic and commensal micro-organisms as well as the bacterial diagnosis of the various infections. It includes a chapter on the filterable viruses, which has been enlarged and rewritten. This now forms a useful summary of the knowledge concerning these infective agents and the diseases caused by them.

The book can be specially recommended to any student or other person beginning work in a bacteriological laboratory.

—E. O. B.

ROYAL MEDICAL BENEVOLENT FUND SOCIETY OF IRELAND

THE Managing Committee of the Royal Medical Benevolent Fund Society of Ireland acknowledge with thanks the receipt of £250, a legacy bequeathed by the late Sir William Whitla of Belfast. The terms of the bequest are, that this sum be invested and the income of same applied to medical men in Belfast, or their wives and orphans in Northern Ireland. The late Sir William Whitla was a keen supporter of medical charities, and this legacy is a typical example of his generosity.